General Outline of a Proposal*

I. **Abstract**: Written in slightly more general terms.

II. **Overall Objective or Goal of the Research**; the **Hypothesis**.

III. **Background**: Demonstrate that you know the field thoroughly. What is the “state of the art”? What are the unanswered questions?

IV. **Significance**: If your plan works, what will be gained? To knowledge (advancing the scientific field) or for society.

V. **Specific Aims**: 1-2 sentences on each point that you intend to investigate.

VI. **Experimental Plan**. The “guts” of the proposal. Describe experiments that will address the specific aims, and at least a part of the overall goals.

* Taken largely from the ACS Petroleum Research Fund Guide.
Clear Presentation

• State the problem or hypothesis.

• State why the issue is significant.

• State what you are going to do.

• Explain how you will carry out the proposed work.
State Your Research Objective

• Make clear in the first paragraph exactly what your proposal is about.

• The statement of your research objective should lead you directly to your methodology
Review (grading) Criteria

Significance:

- Does the study address an important problem?
- If aims of application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced?
- What will be the effect of these studies on concepts or methods that drive this field?